The Member then said that, as judged by the standard measures prevailing in other taluks than Tovala and Agastisvaram, the tax imposed in those taluks was less than in Nanjinad, and that the defect should be remedied by the cubic contents of the Nanjinad measures.

In regard to tax he suggested that the Nanjinad *kotta* should be calculated at 7 1/7 *paras* and not at 8 *paras* and 6½ *edangalies*, and that an order be issued to that effect. Finally the Member requested that the tax imposed on Sripandaravagai lands, which was very heavy, be not realised in kind.

41. Grievances of agriculturists not benefited by the Kodayar Irrigation Project.

Mr. M. Nilakanta Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Colachel) represented that, after the Kodayar Project works had been completed, the tanks in the *pakuthies* of Midalam, Kizhkulam, Nattalam, Killiyur and the western portion of the Colachel *pakuthi* were not restored, that 2,000 acres of wet lands in those *pakuthies* were suffering from want of water and that there was consequent loss both to the people and the Government. He added that the irrigation officers did not even once visit those localities. If the Pattanam Channel was cut, not only could the existing lands be irrigated, but fresh conversions could be made. He therefore requested that the Pattanam Channel be opened.

President's reply.—Your representations in regard to the Pattanam Channel will be referred to the Chief Engineer.

42. Agriculture.

Mr. H. Anantasubrahmanya Aiyar (Member, Tovala taluk) began by condemning the work of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. In his opinion the department had done nothing during the past several years of its existence to increase the productivity of the State. It was a waste of public money to maintain such a costly department; the department was not doing work in proportion to the large amount of money spent on it; the experimental farms, cattle breeding farms and manure depots were not managed properly; and the ryots remained as ignorant of scientific methods of cultivation as ever.

The Member next criticised the present-day system of education which, according to him, made the students fit only for Government service. The worst of the evils of that system was the adoption of a foreign tongue as the medium of instruction. He advocated the need for a productive system of education as opposed to the present consuming one, so as to enable each student after completing his education to start industries on his own initiative and responsibility and thus earn his livelihood independently. As agriculture was the mainstay of the country the Member thought that vernacular education for about 4 or 5 years coupled with a system of agricultural education in theory and practice would accomplish the object he had in view. He therefore suggested the desirability of opening, in every village or group of villages, elementary schools in which agriculture, spinning and weaving should be taught. He suggested that a small farm and a cattle shed be attached to each such school to give practical training to the students in ploughing, manuring, cattle-breeding, etc. The Member was of opinion that education in those schools must be imparted free of charge. He also suggested the opening of a Central Agricultural College to carry on experiments and research work for the development of agriculture.

The Member then represented that the grant of agricultural loans did not serve the purpose for which they were intended and that the poor ryots could get the benefit of the concession, only if the loans were distributed through non-official agencies, *i. e.*, through village agricultural banks to be opened in every village or group of villages under the management of non-officials with State help.

The Member next spoke about Panchayat Courts and said that those courts should be made responsible for the administration of civil and criminal justice, and for the education, the sanitation, and banking of the village. Though mistakes would necessarily be made in the beginning, the right spirit of working should be introduced and proper men to undertake all the work required of them should be found. The old theory of experts alone being considered fit to do certain kinds of work had

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

been exploded and non-officials were doing such work to the entire satisfaction of the people in British India after the Reform Act.

The opening of cart tracts over the bunds of canals and other water-ways was the next topic of the Member's representation. Such tracks were necessary to facilitate the transport of manure and agricultural produce. One such road on the right bank of the Govindapuram *kal* branching off from near the 11th mile stone of the Anantanar river was a real necessity. There was at present a branch road from the Balamore road to Navakkad which was in the worst possible condition and unfit for the passage of vehicles. It should be metalled immediately, the distance being only about a mile. The road from Tazhakkudi to Viranamangalam ended abruptly at the stone bridge across the Pazhayar river and it was a great hardship for the people thereabout to reach the Balmore Road near Erachakulam. The distance to be extended was not more than a mile. If the extension was sanctioned, it would make easy travelling between Tazhakkudi and other places on the east and Erachakulam and other places on the west.

Another point suggested by the Member was that, with a view to increase the extent of cultivable lands, the forest *porambokes* in the three hills of Veli, Asambu, and Poikamalai and the vast uncultivable area near Aramboli might be distributed on easy terms to the people of the Tovala taluk.

The Member next represented the hardship caused to the people by the imposition of varying rates of land-tax. The original rates fixed in kind for wet lands throughout the State were 9 *kottas*, 9 *marakkals* and 4 *padies* for first class lands in Nanjinad, and 67 *paras*, 1 *edangali* for first class lands in all other taluks except Shencottah, the first class rate in Shencottah alone being 6 *kottas*, and 9 *marakkals*. The presumption was that all the three rates were equal to one another, but that presumption was not correct and the people of Nanjinad were taxed heavily. The Member then attempted to meet an observation made by the Dewan at the 19th Session of the Assembly that the land measure had nothing to do with grain measure. He explained the origin of the commutation rate of payment and arrived at the conclusion that the different rates of assessment which were current were unwarranted. The Member complained about the heavy rates of taxation in Nanjanad as against those obtaining in other parts of the State and requested that the higher rates might be reduced to the level of Rs. 17 or Rs. 20. He was of opinion that by tolerating the existing differences the Government were losers to the extent of Rs. 50,000 every year and that the loyal Nanjinadians deserved to be dealt with in a just manner.

The next point urged by the Member was the need for a law enforcing uniform weights and measures. Either the *pakka* or the *para* should be recognised, because at present the lack of it had led to untold misery and trouble among the people.

In regard to the Irrigation Boards recently created, the Member said that they must be made aware of their duties and clear instructions should be issued to them.

The planting of survey stones was another matter of grievance. The Member represented that the planting of boundary stones for tax-free village house-sites should be facilitated, as considerable difficulties were felt at present in determining their boundaries.

The Member next prayed that the great hardship now experienced by the people in getting water in seasons of drought be removed.

In conclusion, the Member urged the institution of a system of Permanent Revenue Settlement.

President's reply to Nos. 40 and 42:—There are some points common to both of you. I shall therefore reply to both the representations together.

Mr. Perumal Pillai, your request for the grant of free passes to agriculturists in the Agastisvaram taluk to enable them to take materials from the forests for making agricultural implements—a concession which is reported to prevail in the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Tovala taluk—will be considered by the Government. As regards roads, an investigation will have to be made ; but you must say definitely what the roads are that you want. We shall then look into the matter. Your prayer to levy tax only for a single crop in respect of the tail-end lands in the Tovala channel is noted.

Mr. Anantasubrahmanya Aiyar, Government regret that they are wholly unable to agree with your remarks regarding the Agricultural Department and the sweeping condemnation that you have made about it. In the matter of irrigation, every attempt is being made to do what is feasible with due regard to the funds at the disposal of the Government. In regard to agricultural education, an Agricultural Middle School has already been opened at Alwaye and another school is proposed to be opened at Kottarakara next year. The question of opening more such schools and more agricultural farms depends upon the availability of funds and trained staff.

Your remarks about agricultural loans and panchayats will be noted for consideration.

With respect to the cart track near Govindapuram and the road up to Erachakulam, these will be investigated and estimates prepared.

The subject of distributing agricultural loans through Co-operative Societies is engaging the attention of the Government.

In regard to the working of Irrigation Boards, the Land Revenue Commissioner reports that, in the Agastisvaram taluk, there are 44 block boards now, and that the Presidents thereof were elected in Kanni and Vrischikam, 1099. The Presidents of the Boards have been holding meetings and copies of the proceedings of these meetings are being received by the Tahsildar. It is also stated that circulars have been issued to taluk officers to render the Board Presidents every necessary help. Steps are taken to supply the Presidents with printed copies of Irrigational Rules. The following block boards, *viz.*, Kotandaraman, Bastow, Kulasekharamputur and Terekal have been formed under Rule 20 of the Rules for the levy of water cess. Government have given the necessary sanction to the same. The other proposals will be referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner for remarks. The Central Board will be constituted only after all the block boards have been formed.

Member.—Eleven members have already been elected to the Central Board. One year has passed and yet no Central Board has been formed.

President.—The matter will be looked into.

Your request *re.* the assignment of lands near Aramboly and Velimalai will also be noted and considered.

Then you referred to the capacity of the *para* measure. The Dewan gave the answer to a like representation on the subject at the last Session of the Assembly and the matter must rest there.

Your remarks and suggestions in regard to Regulation VI of 1085 (Weights and Measures Regulation) and your request for the opening of Village Agricultural Schools are noted.

43. Improvement of Agriculture.

Mr. N. J. Kuncheria (Member, Todupuzha taluk) complained that Government were not giving the people of Todupuzha even a portion of the facilities afforded to the people of Nanjanad in the matter of agriculture, in spite of repeated representations made at the previous sessions of the Assembly. He said that so long as Government turned a deaf ear to the prayers of the people of Todupuzha for increased agricultural facilities and for improved means of communication, it was not possible for them to put forward representations in other directions, and in order to enable them to do so, the Member requested that his taluk might be allowed to return more than one member to the Assembly.

The Member then explained how the influx of people into Todupuzha from other parts of the State reduced the area under *cherikkal* cultivation and how such dimunition adversely affected the output of paddy in the taluk.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly